

6/1/58

CALLAS QUILTS AFTER FIRST ACT ATROME OPERA

Greek-born soprano Maria Menighini Callas failed to continue her starring role after the first act of Vincenzo Bellini's four-act opera "Norma" Thursday night at the glittering opening of Rome's opera season, pleading a sudden illness.

The management sent home the first night audience of 3,000 persons in evening dress, explaining only that "due to unforeseen causes" the show would not continue. But theatrical sources said Miss Callas refused to leave her dressing room for the second act, declaring "I can't do it".

Among the audience were Italian President Giovanni Gronchi, most members of the Italian Cabinet, film stars and members of Rome's society.

The first act went off smoothly with Miss Callas seemingly in good health and playing her part capably. But the intermission after the first act continued for a full hour without explanation. Some members of the audience began to shuffle their feet and then to boo. Finally the announcement was made that the performance would not continue. Most persons filed to the exits, whispering in undertones; but a large number joined the booing. A jeering crowd of about 1000 persons remained outside the Opera House waiting for Miss Callas to come out. Police established cordons around the Opera House to keep the crowd in check. Miss Callas remained in her dressing room; a porter who entered the room said she was crumpled across a bed, crying. He said American society hostess Elsa Maxwell was with Miss Callas trying to comfort her.

The coverage shows:

- The Opera House
- The arrival of President and Mrs. Giovanni Gronchi greeted by Government members
- The arrival of Maxwell, and various arrivals
- Audience members in the Foyer
- Anna Magnani - Gina Lollobrigida - Silvana Pampanini
- Tailor Schubert and actress Milly Vitale
- Elsa Maxwell
- Minister and Mrs. Pella
- Minister and Mrs. Andreotti
- Foyer
- C.U. Hall and boxes
- After the interruption of the performance
- Newspapers

WWW In addition is being shipped some Library Material concerning Maria Menighini Callas singing "Casta Diva" of Norma.

FASHION SHOW

A fashion show is always a good attraction for fashionable and popular people. Here it seems a movie meeting on account of the large presence of actors. We see Ettore Manni, Sandra Milo, Lyla Rocco. Present also a member of the movie industry.

It is a parade of evening dresses which reminds the first post-war period, including the Charleston time, whose model is compacted with a bunch of minks. But also the atom time is ~~whw~~ glamorously represented by two cocktail-models in a multiple vision!

AERIAL ROPEWAY

After a many-month hard labor has been inaugurated with the participation of native girls in their national costumes, the aerial ropeway of Monte Rosa.

Mountain and snow lovers, starting from 1637 meter altitude of Gressoney la Trinité may reach comfortably by this ropeway the 2300-meter altitude of Punta Jolanda.

Awfully majestic is the scenery of Monte Rosa from the 1200-meter long aerial travel.... and then the joy of a nice skiing.